

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 /053 W

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O R 231735Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6497

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

US NATO 1044

USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5681

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY REFORM PACE SLOWED

REF: MADRID 5646

1. CORTES PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ MIRANDA TOLD  
PRESS REPS JULY 20 THAT, CONTARY TO CUSTOM, NO OFFICIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE ABOUT AN OFFICIAL  
PARLIAMENTARY VACATION PERIOD BUT THAT DEPUTIES COULD  
GO AHEAD WITH THEIR VACATION PLANS. BUT LEAVE THEIR  
TELEPHONE NUMERS SINCE SOME MIGHT HAVE TO COME  
BACK FOR URGENT COMMITTEE WORK. CORTES,  
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HE SAID, ALREADY WAS WORKING UNDER AN EXTENDED MANDATE

(PROGATION) AND WOULD CONTINUE OFFICIALLY TO BE "OPEN" TO RECEIVE GOVT BILLS. SHOULD LATTER SUBMIT NEW DRAFT BILLS, THE PRESIDENT WOULD NAME A SPECIAL COMMITTEE (PONENCIA) TO REPORT ON THEM WHICH WOULD TAKE A MINIMUM OF 10 DAYS UNDER THE EXTRAORDINARY SPEED UP PROCEDURES ADOPTED UNDER THE PREVIOUS GOVT TO ACCELERATE PASSAGE REFORM LAWS. FERNANDEZ MIRANDA WAS UNWILLING TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE A PLENARY SESSION IN EARLY AUGUST.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, DEPUTY JOSEP MELIA (INDEPENDENT) SAID THAT A PLENARY SESSION BEFORE SEPTEMBER IS UNLIKELY BECAUSE THERE IS AT PRESENT NO IMPORTANT LEGISLATION OF A POLITICAL CHARACTER ON THE AGENDA FOR ENTACTMENT, WHILE THE NEW GOS IS DISCUSSING ITS OWN ALTERNATIVE TO THE OLD ARIAS PLAN FOR A NEW PARLIAMENT. THE GOVT HE SAID PROBABLY INTENDS TO WITHDRAW THE LAW ON ECONOMIC MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE PREVIOUS FINANCE MINISTER LAST MARCH.

4. MELIA ALONG WITH OTHERS, NOTED THE GOVT IS TRYING TO GAIN A LITTLE TIME TO SORT OUT ITS OWN DIFFERENCES ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH POLITICAL REFORM ONE GROUP OF MINISTERS FAVORS A PROSPECTIVE TYPE OF REFERENDUM AND ANOTHER PREFERS ONE WHICH HAS BEEN PROCEEDED BY RPOPOSALS APPROVED BY THE CORTES. HE AND OTHER LIKE MINDED INDEPENDENT DEPUTIES HE SAID, WERE BAFFLED BY THE GOVT'S INITIAL ABSTENTION IN THE JULY 14 SESSION WHICH FINALLY APPROVED THE PENAL CODE'S REVISION AND FEARFUL THAT GOVT WOULD NOT SHOW ITS HAND AND GUIDE ITS BILLS THROUGH PARLIAMENTARY MACHINERY. THE GOVT HAS THE MEANS TO ELICIT SUPPORT FOR ITS PROGRAM BY AT LEAST THREE FOURTHS OF CORTES, HE THINKS BUT HE STRESSED THAT GOVT HAD TO BE DECISIVE AND DEAL WITH EMERGING PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUSES.

5. MELIA SAID THAT FERNANDEZ MIRANDA'S DICTATORIAL MAIPULATION OF CORTES PROCEEDINGS JULY 14 HAD LEFT BAD TASTE IN THE MOUTHS OF MANY DEPUTIES. THIS LESSING OF THE STANDING OF A MAN REPUTEDLY CLOSE TO THE KING COULD CAUSE SOME EMBARRASSMENT TO THE KING HIMSELF WHO ALREADY IS MORE EXPOSED TO POLITICAL CRITICISM WITH THE NAMING OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SUAREZ GOVT. FERNANDEZ MIRANDA IS ONE OF THE MAIN PROPONENTS THROUGH THE CORTES WHICH, IN MELIA'S JUDGMENT, SEEMS TO BE THE DOMINANT VIEW IN GOVT CIRCLES.

6. ANOTHER KNOWLEDGEABLE REFORMIST DEPUTY, PEREZ PUGA TOLD US LATER THAT FROM WHAT HE HAD HEARD TODAY, THE GOS WOULD PROBABLY BY PASS THE CORTES IN A PROSPECTIVE REFEREDUM (LATE SEPTEMBER, EARLY OCTOBER) AND

THEN ARMED WITH A POPULAR MANDATE, LEGISLATE THE SPECIFICS  
OF THE POLITICAL REFORMS.

7. COMMENT: THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A DEBATE GOING ON IN  
THE GOVT ON WHAT PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW. HOW IT WILL  
COME OUT IS NOT YET CERTAIN.  
STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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